

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 236808 TOSEC 270684

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:    SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELLING PRESS REPORTAGE, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER  
23, 1976, EVENING REPORT.

NO. 44

WIRES

1. REUTER (NELSON FROM SOUDA BAY) SEPTEMBER 23, 1976

"SECRETARY LEFT ...FOR BRITAIN TODAY TO URGE PRIME MINISTER  
CALLAGHAN TO MOVE AS SWIFTLY AS POSSIBLE TO SET UP AN  
INTERIM GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA.

"SUCH A GOVERNMENT, WHICH WOULD OVERSEE THE TRANSITION TO  
BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA, COULD BE ESTABLISHED IN  
FOUR TO SIX WEEKS, U.S. OFFICIALS IN PARTY SAID.

"BUT SPEAKING TO REPORTERS ON BOARD DR. KISSINGER'S PLANE  
...THE OFFICIALS WARNED THAT A PROLONGED DELAY IN INSTALL-  
ING THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT COULD INCREASE THE POWER  
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OF RADICAL BLACKS AND MAKE LIFE IMPOSSIBLE FOR  
RHODESIA'S 270,000 WHITES.

"BLACK AFRICAN LEADERS HAVE SAID THAT THE INSTALLATION OF

TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IS THE POINT AT WHICH GUERRILLA WARFARE INSIDE RHODESIA WILL STOP.

"U.S. OFFICIALS INDICATED THEY HAD LITTLE DOUBT THAT RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH WOULD ACCEPT IN A SPEECH TOMORROW, THE U.S. AND BRITISH TERMS CALLING FOR THE UNEQUIVOCAL GRANTING OF POLITICAL POWER TO RHODESIA'S SIX MILLION BLACKS.

"IF SMITH DOES AS EXPECTED, THE OFFICIALS CONTINUED, IT WOULD BE IN THE INTERESTS OF RHODESIA'S WHITE MINORITY TO HAVE A MODERATE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT INSTALLED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

"OTHERWISE, THEY SAID THE MORE MILITANT FACTIONS OF RHODESIA'S BLACK NATIONALIST MOVEMENT WOULD CONTINUE FIGHTING AND PERHAPS GAIN THE UPPER HAND.

"THERE APPEARED TO BE GENUINE CONCERN IN THE PARTY THAT THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE DELAYED BY LEGALISTIC WRANGLING OVER THE TERMS OF ITS EXISTENCE. IT IS THIS THAT KISSINGER WAS URGING CALLAGHAN TO AVOID.

"IT IS BRITAIN'S TASK, AS THE LEGAL CONTROLLING POWER FOR RHODESIA, TO CALL THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION THAT WOULD BE THE FIRST STAGE IN TRANSFORMING RHODESIA INTO AN INDEPENDENT STATE, RULED BY ITS BLACK MAJORITY.

"U.S. OFFICIALS ASSUME THAT MR. SMITH, WHO HAS BEEN AMONG THE MOST STUBBORN OF RHODESIA'S LEADERS, WOULD PLAY ONLY A SMALL PART IN THE TRANSITION ONCE HE ACCEPTS THE TERMS. BUT THEY SAY THERE IS NO SPECIFIC UNDERSTANDING THAT HE MUST RESIGN.

"THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT WOULD PRESUMABLY BE A BI-RACIAL ADMINISTRATION OF MODERATE BLACKS AND LIBERAL WHITES.  
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"ALTHOUGH MR. KENYATTA REFUSED TO COMMENT ON STILL SECRET RHODESIA PLAN, U.S. OFFICIALS SAID THAT HE WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IT.

2. REUTER (NELSON FROM LONDON) LONDON SIMILAR TO NELSON-SOUDA BAY PIECE ABOVE EXCEPT FOR FOLLOWING:

"DR. KISSINGER TOLD REPORTERS OUTSIDE NO. 10 DOWNING STREET, THE RESIDENCE OF PM JAMES CALLAGHAN, THAT HE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF RHODESIAN PM SMITH REJECTS HIS PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE 11 YEAR-OLD RHODESIA DISPUTE.

"DR. KISSINGER SAID TONIGHT THAT THE TERMS WERE WITHIN THE

FRAMEWORK LAID DOWN ON MARCH 22 BY MR. CALLAGHAN WHO, THEN FOREIGN SECRETARY, SET A TWO-YEAR DEADLINE FOR HANDING POWER OVER TO RHODESIA'S SIX MILLION BLACKS.

"DR. KISSINGER HAS AVOIDED SAYING SPECIFICALLY, HOWEVER, WHETHER TWO-YEAR DEADLINE STILL APPLIES.

3. AP (NO BYLINE FROM SALISBURY)

" SMITH WILL TELL THE NATION FRIDAY WHETHER...GOVERNMENT WILL YIELD TO INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE AND HAND OVER POWER TO RHODESIA'S BLACK MAJORITY...

"SMITH SAID...RHODESIAN FRONT....DECIDED AT A MEETING TODAY WHETHER IT WILL ACCEPT THE PROPOSALS FOR TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE MADE BY KISSINGER...BUT HE SAID THE DECISION WILL NOT BE REVEALED UNTIL HIS RADIO AND TELEVISION ADDRESS FRIDAY NIGHT.

"IT WILL BE A CLEAR AND POSITIVE AND UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT. THERE WILL BE NO DOUBT IN ANBODY'S MIND,'SMITH SAID AFTER MEETING FOR FIVE HOURS WITH THE 50 RHODESIAN FRONT MEMBERS OF PARLIMENT.

"INFORMED SOURCES CLOSE TO THE PARTY SAID THE CAUCUS ACCEPTED THE PROPOSALS PUT TO THEM BY SMITH. BUT THERE WAS NO INDICATION IF THEY WERE THE SAME AS THOSE MADE BY UNCLASSIFIED

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KISSINGER AT THEIR MEETING IN PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA.

"THERE WAS 'REALISTIC TALKING FROM ALL THE MEMBERS' AT THE CAUCUS,'SMITH TOLD NEWSMEN. 'AT NO TIME WAS THERE ANY IRRESPONSIBLE TALK,' ASKED IF HE MIGHT MEET WITH KISSINGER AGAIN, SMITH SAID, 'I DON'T THINK THAT WILL BE NECESSARY, THAT WAS NEVER PART OF ANY AGREEMENT.'

4. REUTER (VOSLEY FROM SALISBURY)

"MEMBERS OF...RHODESIAN FRONT, TONIGHT AGREED ON THEIR RESPONSE TO THE 'KISSINGER PROPOSALS' FOR A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT AND PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE RESULT.

"MR. SMITH DID NOT SAY WHETHER THEY HAD ACCEPTED OR REJECTED THE PROPOSALS, BUT SAID HE WOULD ANNOUNCE THE RESULT IN A BROADCAST TO THE NATION TOMORROW.

"WHILE THE MEETING WAS STILL IN PROGRESS IN THE PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS HERE, INFORMED SOURCES HAD SAID THE CAUCUS WAS HEADING FOR NEAR-CERTAIN ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROPOSALS.

....

(REST OF LONG REPORT SIMILAR TO ABOVE AP ITEMS)

(NO ANDERSON; NO GAUSHON)

TELEVISION:

(1) NBC -- BRINKLEY: "SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER ENDED HIS TRIP TO AFRICA TODAY, SAYING HE WAS LEAVING WITH WARM FEELINGS AND A SENSE OF HOPE. HE FLEW LONDON AND WENT TO 10 DOWNING STREET TO TALK TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

"AND PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH OF RHODESIA MET WITH HIS CABINET AND SAID THAT A DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON THE KISSINGER PLAN TO END WHITE RULE. HE SAID IN A BROADCAST TOMORROW HE WOULD SAY WHAT THE DECISION WAS, BUT NOT UNTIL THEN. OTHER SOURCES SAID SMITH SUPPORTED THE KISSINGER PLAN BECAUSE HE SAW NO ALTERNATIVE. HERE IS GARRETT UTLEY UNCLASSIFIED

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IN SALISBURY, RHODESIA:"

UTLEY: "P.M. IAN SMITH LOOKED UNUSUALLY RELAXED AND CONFIDENT THIS MORNING AS HE WALKED FROM HIS OFFICE TO THE CRUCIAL MEETING IN THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING. ALL WEEK HE HAS BEEN TELLING WHITE RHODESIANS THAT MOMENTOUS CHANGES ARE COMING, WHILE TRYING TO REASSURE THEM BY SAYING EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT. THE TASK FACING P.M. SMITH TODAY WAS TO CONVINCE MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY IN PARLIAMENT TO ACCEPT THE KISSINGER PROPOSAL ON RHODESIA. HIS PROBLEM, THOUGH, IS THAT MANY OF THE PARTY MEMBERS ARE EXTREME HARD-LINERS WHO HAVE VOWED TO ACCEPT NO PLAN WHICH WOULD DILUTE WHITE CONTROL HERE. ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING, BLACK RHODESIANS WATCHED AND WAITED.

"AFTER AN ALL-DAY MEETING, SMITH CAME OUT. HE WOULDN'T SAY WHAT THE DECISION HAD BEEN, BUT IT IS BELIEVED IT WAS YES.

"SMITH: 'I'M DUE TO SPEAK TOMORROW NIGHT, AND I CAN TELL YOU IT WILL BE A CLEAR AND (INAUDIBLE) AND UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT. THERE WILL BE NO DOUBT IN ANYBODY'S MIND.'

"TOMORROW, SMITH WILL SPEAK ON TELEVISION TO TELL RHODESIANS WHAT THEIR FUTURE WILL BE."

(2) CBS -- CRONKITE: "RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT SOURCES REPORTED THIS EVENING THAT THE COUNTRY'S RULING PARTY CAUCUS REPORTEDLY HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER'S PLANS FOR A TRANSITION TO BLACK MAJORITY RULE THERE. MORE ON THE STORY FROM ROBIN WRIGHT IN SALISBURY:"

"WRIGHT: 'AFTER 6 HOURS OF DEBATE IN THE PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS, P.M. IAN SMITH ANNOUNCED TONIGHT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS REACHED A DECISION ON THE KISSINGER PROPOSAL TO END RHODESIA'S 11-YEAR OLD CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS. SMITH SAID THERE WAS NO IRRESPONSIBLE TALK OR ACRIMONY DURING THE DEBATE. SMITH WOULD NOT DISCLOSE WHETHER THE SETTLEMENT PLAN WAS ACCEPTED, BUT SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE DECISION OF HIS 50-MEMBER CAUCUS. HE SAID IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO MEET WITH SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER AGAIN. UNCLASSIFIED

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THE P.M. WILL MAKE WHAT HE CALLS A CLEAR, POSITIVE AND UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT TOMORROW ANNOUNCING THE DECISION IN A NATION-WIDE TELEVISION ADDRESS, WHEN RHODESIANS WILL FINALLY LEARN FOR THE FIRST TIME WHAT THE PROPOSALS INVOLVES AND HOW IT WILL AFFECT THEIR FUTURE.'

CRONKITE: "DR. KISSINGER ENDED HIS 11-DAY AFRICAN SHUTTLE TODAY AND FLEW TO LONDON TO BRIEF BRITISH OFFICIALS. I WAS ABLE TO TALK WITH DR. KISSINGER VIA SATELLITE ABOUT THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

"DR. KISSINGER, IT APPEARS THAT AT THIS HOUR THIS EVENING CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER. RHODESIAN SOURCES SAY THAT PREMIER SMITH'S PARTY HAS ACCEPTED YOUR PROPOSALS TO ACHIEVE RACIAL PEACE THERE -- PROPOSALS, I KNOW, ORIGINALLY PUT FORTH BY THE BRITISH. CAN YOU TELL US NOW SPECIFICALLY WHAT THE PROPOSALS ARE?"

SECRETARY: "NO. I THINK THAT WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL MR. SMITH SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE TOMORROW. BUT THEY FOLLOW IN THE MAIN THE BASIC PROPOSALS THAT WERE MADE BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT LAST MARCH AND WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN WORKED OUT, WITH SOME MODIFICATIONS, WITH THE RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES, APPARENTLY."

CRONKITE: "DO THE MODIFICATIONS, MAY WE ASK, CHANGE THE TIMETABLE? DOES IT STILL PROVIDE MAJORITY RULE AFTER TWO YEARS?"

SECRETARY: "THE TIMETABLE HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED."

CRONKITE: "WE'VE BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSALS PROVIDE A CESSATION OF BLACK GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. IS THAT CORRECT, SIR?"

SECRETARY: "IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN UNDERSTOOD THAT AT SOME POINT IN THIS PROCESS GUERRILLA ACTIVITY WOULD CEASE. BUT AGAIN, WE ARE AT THE BEGINNING OF A VERY DELICATE PROCESS. MR. SMITH HAS NOT YET SPOKEN; THE AFRICAN STATES HAVE NOT YET REACTED; NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WILL INVOLVE ALSO GREAT BRITAIN HAVE YET TO BE CONDUCTED. SO I DON'T THINK I

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SHOULD GO INTO THE DETAILS UNTIL THE FIRST STEP HAS AS YET BEEN TAKEN."

CRONKITE: "DR. KISSINGER, THE AFRICAN MINISTERS MET AT THE U.N. TODAY, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT SPOKESMEN FOR THE NEIGHBORING NATIONS -- TANZANIA, ZAMBIA AND MOZAMBIQUE -- ALL SAID THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE LIBERATION ACTIVITIES, GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES, IN OTHER WORDS, UNTIL THE TRANSFER OF POWER TO MAJORITY RULE ACTUALLY WAS MADE. NOW DOES THAT SURPRISE YOU? DOES THAT THROW A BLOCK INTO THIS PROCESS?"

SECRETARY: "NO. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE DISCUSSIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE. WE HAVE ALL BEEN SPEAKING TO THE AUTHORITIES IN RHODESIA, TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND TO THE BLACK AFRICAN STATES, AND WHAT IS EMERGING HOPEFULLY IS A CONSENSUS TO WHICH ALL PARTIES AGREE."

CRONKITE: "WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP, SIR?"

SECRETARY: "THE NEXT STEP IS THAT MR. SMITH STATE THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH HE IS PREPARED TO SOLVE THE CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS. THEN BRITAIN, AS THE COUNTRY THAT HAS THE CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY, WILL PROBABLY SEEK TO FACILITATE A CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE BLACK NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND THE SETTLERS IN RHODESIA AND THAT THIS WILL BRING ABOUT THE NEGOTIATION WHICH WILL PRODUCE A FINAL SETTLEMENT."

CRONKITE: "IF THIS DOESN'T WORK, DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER PLAN TO FALL BACK ON?"

SECRETARY: "IF WE HAD NOT MADE THIS EFFORT, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN A RACE WAR IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WHICH WAS ALREADY ESCALATING, WHICH WOULD HAVE BROUGHT A GREAT RISK OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION, AND WHICH HAVE SPREAD TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. WE HOPE THAT WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO AVERTING THIS, AND HAVING BROUGHT IT THIS FAR, WE ARE NOT COUNTING ON IT FAILING."

CRONKITE: "DR. KISSINGER, THERE WAS MORE RIOTING IN JOHANNESBURG TODAY. WHEN YOU SAW P.M. VORSTER OF SOUTH AFRICA, DID YOU GET ANY INDICATION THAT THERE WILL BE ANY CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA ATTITUDE TOWARD APARTHEID AT THIS TIME?"

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SECRETARY: "THE SOUTH AFRICAN SITUATION IS EXTREMELY COM-

PLICATED. I MADE CLEAR OUR VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT AND OUR  
HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE AN EVOLUTION THAT WOULD BRING  
MORE HARMONY."

CRONKITE: "ANY ASSURANCES FROM HIM TO GIVE YOU ENCOURAGE-  
MENT?"

SECRETARY: "IT IS A COMPLICATED PROCESS THAT WILL TAKE  
LONGER THAN THE ONE THAT WE HAVE NEGOTIATED IN THE LAST  
FEW WEEKS."

CRONKITE: "THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SECRETARY OF STATE  
KISSINGER, IN LONDON.

"THAT WAS THE REPORT FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS DR. KISSINGER  
HAS BEEN CONDUCTING ON THE RHODESIAN QUESTION . . ."

((CRONKITE CONTINUES WITH A REPORT ON THE RIOTING IN SOUTH  
AFRICA AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN END TO ITS  
POLICY OF SEGREGATION IN SPORTS -- "MULTI-RACIAL SPORTS AT  
ALL LEVELS WOULD BE PERMITTED AND THAT MIXED RACIAL TEAMS  
WOULD BE PERMITTED TO REPRESENT SOUTH AFRICA ABROAD."))

(3) ABC -- REASONER REPORTS RACE RIOTS AND S.A. SPORTS  
INTEGRATION ANNOUNCEMENT. REPORTS FROM SALISBURY BASICALLY  
SAME AS CBS AND NBC; I.E., TOMORROW'S SMITH ANNOUNCEMENT  
EXPECTED TO ACCEPT KISSINGER PROPOSALS.

NO KOPPLE.  
NO KALB.  
NO VALERIANI.

NEWSPAPERS:

CHICAGO TRIBUNE: NO MACLEAN

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LATIMES: NO JOHNSTON

ROBINSON

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